

WHAT IS CLAIMED

- 1 1. A method of logging a computer system user out of a server comprising
2 the steps of:
3 selecting a logout link;
4 generating a logout page for display on a browser being used by the user;
5 causing a request for data from the server to be issued by the browser,
6 wherein the request causes the server to expire cookies from the browser.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the request further causes the server to
2 send an image to the browser which is indicative of successful logout.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein multiple servers are logged out of by
2 selection of a single logout link.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the logout link may be located on any of
2 the multiple servers and an authentication server.
- 1 5. The method of claim 3 wherein a visited sites cookie maintains a list of all
2 sites logged into by the user.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein selected cookies are expired to log out of
2 the server.

1 7. A computer readable medium having a program stored thereon for causing
2 a computer to implement a method of logging a computer system user out of a server comprising
3 the steps of:

4 selecting a logout link;

5 generating a logout page for display on a browser being used by the user;

6 causing a request for data from the server to be issued by the browser, wherein the
7 request causes the server to expire cookies from the browser.

1 8. The computer readable medium of claim 7 wherein the request further
2 causes the server to send an image to the browser which is indicative of successful logout.

1 9. The computer readable medium of claim 7 wherein multiple servers are
2 logged out of by selection of a single logout link.

1 10. A method of logging a computer system user out of multiple servers
2 comprising:

3 receiving a request for a logout page;

4 providing a link to an expire cookies page on each server that when called causes
5 each server to expire cookies on the user's browser, and to provide an image back to the browser
6 upon succeeding in logging the user out.

1 11. A system for logging a computer system user out of multiple servers
2 comprising:

3 means for receiving a request for a logout page; and

4 a module that provides a link to an expire cookies page on each server that when
5 called causes each server to expire cookies on the user's browser, and to provide an image back
6 to the browser upon succeeding in logging the user out.

1 12. The method of claim 11 and further comprising maintaining a list of
2 servers that a user has logged into identified by site ID.

1 13. The method of claim 11 wherein the list of servers is used to identify the
2 link to each expire cookies page on each server.

1 14. The method of claim 11 wherein the request for a logout page can be
2 initiated via different server pages.

1 15. A computer readable medium having a program stored thereon for causing
2 a computer to implement a method of logging a computer system user out of multiple servers
3 comprising:

4 receiving a request for a logout page;

5 providing a link to an expire cookies page on each server that when called causes
6 each server to expire cookies on the user's browser, and to provide an image back to the browser
7 upon succeeding in logging the user out.

1 16. A method of logging a computer system user out of multiple servers
2 comprising:

3 selecting a logout link from an affiliated server;

4 building a page containing an expire cookies URL;

5 sending requests to retrieve an image identified by each expire cookies URL;
6 retiring stored cookies; and
7 receiving and displaying an image from multiple servers.

1 17. A computer readable medium having a program stored thereon for causing
2 a computer to implement a method of logging a computer system user out of multiple servers
3 comprising:

4 selecting a logout link;
5 building a page containing an expire cookies URL;
6 sending requests to retrieve an image identified by each expire cookies URL;
7 retiring stored cookies; and
8 receiving and displaying an image from multiple servers.

1 18. A method of logging out of multiple domain servers on a network, the
2 method performed by a browser comprising:

3 requesting a logout page from an authentication server;
4 receiving source image tags from the authentication server;
5 issuing get image requests to URLs identified by the image tags;
6 retiring cookies identified by responses to the get image requests; and
7 rendering an image received in responses from the domain servers.

1 19. The method of claim 18 wherein the image comprises a small image that
2 can be loaded quickly.

1 20. The method of claim 18 wherein the image tag ensures that the image will
2 not be retrieved from cache.

1 21. The method of claim 18 wherein the image tag includes a query.

1 22. The method of claim 18 wherein the domain servers logged into are
2 identified in a visited sites data structure.

1 23. The method of claim 22 wherein the data structure comprises a cookie.

1 24. A method of logging a computer system user out of multiple servers
2 comprising:
3 receiving a request for a logout page;
4 providing a link to an expire cookies page on each server in the form of an image
5 source tag that when called causes each server to expire cookies on both the server and user's
6 browser, and to provide an image back to the browser upon succeeding in logging out the user.

1 25. The method of claim 24 wherein a visited sites data structure is
2 maintained identifying the multiple servers that are logged into.

1 26. The method of claim 24 wherein the request is initiated by the selection of
2 a logout link.

1 27. The method of claim 24 wherein the logout link may be provided on one
2 or more of the multiple servers logged into, an affiliated server, and an authentication server.

1 28. The method of claim 24 wherein the cookies comprise user personal
2 information.

1 29. A logout page for display on a browser used to log a user out of multiple
2 servers, the logout page comprising:

3 a plurality of image tags, each image tag corresponding to one of the multiple
4 servers;

5 each image tag providing a URL that causes a server associated with the image
6 tag to expire cookies; and

7 each image tag forcing the browser to fetch the image from the associated server.

1 30. The logout page of claim 29 wherein each image tag contains a query
2 string parameter.

1 31. A method of generating a logout page for display on a browser used to log
2 a user out of multiple servers, the method comprising:

3 obtaining a visited sites data file which identifies each server logged into;

4 generating a plurality of image tags, each image tag corresponding to one of the
5 multiple servers;

6 providing a URL in each image tag that causes a server associated with the image
7 tag to expire cookies.

1 32. The method of claim 31 wherein each image tag contains a query string
2 parameter causing the browser to fetch the image from the associated with the image tag with a
3 separate transaction.